

In the Claims

Applicant has submitted a new complete claim set showing marked up claims with insertions indicated by underlining and deletions indicated by strikeouts and/or double bracketing.

Please cancel claims 3, 5-6, and 12-55 without prejudice or disclaimer. Please amend pending claims 1, 4, 7 and 11 as noted below.

1. (Currently Amended) A transport tray for a coiled fiber including at least one coil of fiber, the transport tray comprising:

a base; [[and]]

a circular receptacle disposed on the base that is constructed and arranged to receive the at least one coil of fiber therein, the receptacle including an upstanding wall having at least one opening therein to allow an end portion of the fiber to extend from the receptacle;

at least one retainer disposed on the base, the at least one retainer being constructed and arranged to secure the end portion of the fiber to the base at a predetermined location;

an aperture formed in the base and located proximate to the at least one retainer such that an end of the fiber extending beyond the retainer overlies the aperture; and

at least one fiber end retainer to secure the end of the fiber, the fiber end retainer being supported by the base over the aperture.

2. (Original) The transport tray as claimed in claim 1, wherein the circular receptacle has a diameter that is sized to maintain the at least one coil of fiber at a coil diameter that is greater than a minimum bend radius of the fiber.

3. (Canceled)

4. (Currently Amended) The transport tray as claimed in claim 1 [[3]], wherein the at least one retainer is constructed and arranged to secure fibers having any one of a range of diameters.

5-6. (Canceled)

7. (Currently Amended) The transport tray as claimed in claim 1 [[6]], wherein the end of the fiber has one of at least two different shapes, the fiber end retainer including at least first and second fiber end retainers interchangeably supported by the base, the first fiber end retainer being adapted to secure the end of the fiber having a first shape and the second fiber end retainer being adapted to secure the end of the fiber having a second shape.

8. (Original) The transport tray as claimed in claim 1, further comprising a locking mechanism supported on the base to retain the coiled fiber within the receptacle, the locking mechanism being movable between an open position and a closed position.

9. (Original) The transport tray as claimed in claim 8, wherein the locking mechanism is adapted to be moved between the open and closed positions by an axially directed force with respect to the receptacle.

10. (Original) The transport tray as claimed in claim 8, wherein the locking mechanism comprises at least one latch adapted to engage an inner surface of the upstanding wall.

11. (Currently Amended) The transport tray as claimed in claim 1 [[8]], further comprising at least one registration feature located within the circular receptacle and adapted to mate with a corresponding feature provided on one or more manufacturing tools or stations to position the receptacle in a predetermined location relative to the one or more manufacturing tools or stations to receive the coiled fiber in the receptacle.

12-55. (Canceled)